

**Security Council**

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Letter dated 9 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The People's Republic of China, during its presidency of the Security Council for the month of November 2018, will hold an open debate entitled "Peace and security in Africa: strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa".

I have the honour to inform you that the meeting will take place on Tuesday, 20 November, at 10 a.m. in the Security Council Chamber. To guide a fruitful discussion, a concept note has been prepared (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council in connection with the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa".

(Signed) **Ma Zhaoxu**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 9 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese]

Concept note

**Security Council open debate on peace and security in Africa:
Strengthening peacekeeping operations in Africa**

As the rotating President of the Security Council in November, China proposes to hold an open debate on "Peace and Security in Africa: Strengthening Peacekeeping Operations in Africa" on November 20, 2018.

I. Background

Despite its overall stability and sound development momentum, some countries and regions of the African continent still face security challenges such as armed conflicts and terrorism. The United Nations and the international community have a responsibility to assist Africa in strengthening its capacity to maintain peace and security.

African countries and the African Union are important forces for promoting world peace and shared development, and are major partners with the United Nations in cooperation on peace and security. At present, more than half of the top twenty countries contributing troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations are African, and the five largest of the fourteen United Nations peacekeeping missions are deployed in Africa. The African Union is an important partner for these peacekeeping operations, for which its own peace operations serve as a vital complement. In recent years, the United Nations and the African Union cooperated in various ways in operations in Darfur (Sudan) and Somalia. In subregions such as the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin, African Union-mandated peace support operations reinforced the efforts of the United Nations and the Security Council to maintain international peace and security. Excellent synergies exist between United Nations peacekeeping operations and the political processes for settling hotspot issues led by regional and sub-regional mechanisms in Africa.

Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations provides for cooperation between regional organizations and the United Nations in addressing matters of peace and security. In 2015, a report by the High-level Independent Panel on Peace Operations established by the Secretary-General stated that the United Nations should enhance its strategic partnership with the African Union and provide more predictable financing, on a case-by-case basis, to African Union peace support operations authorized by the Security Council. In April 2017, Secretary-General António Guterres and African Union Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for an Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security, providing guidance for deepening peace and security cooperation at all levels between the two organizations. In March 2018, Secretary-General Guterres launched the Action for Peacekeeping initiative; in August, he put forward the Declaration of Shared Commitments on United Nations Peacekeeping Operations. During the general debate of the seventy-third session of the General Assembly in September, the Secretary-General held a high-level meeting and committed, together with 150 countries, to strengthen peacekeeping partnerships with regional organizations such as the African Union and to support the African Union in expanding its capacity-building. They reaffirmed the need to provide predictable,

sustainable and flexible funding for the African Union-led peace operations authorized by the Security Council.

Security Council Resolutions 2320 (2016) and 2378 (2017) are key recent resolutions on peacekeeping cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. Both resolutions recognize the importance of strengthening cooperation between the two organizations in the field of peace and security, including joint planning, operational assessment and joint reporting. They also support the strengthening of African Union-led peace operations and its peace and security architecture, especially the African Standby Force. As called for in the relevant resolutions, the Secretary-General has submitted a report to the Security Council on options for authorization and support for African Union-led peace operations and regularly informs the Council of progress in this regard. The report summarizes several models used by the United Nations in supporting African Union-led peace operations authorized by the Security Council.

Africa's efforts to maintain regional peace and security still face serious challenges. Some African troop-contributing countries and African Union peace operations are constrained in terms of financial resources, equipment and internal management, which limit their ability to respond to peace and security challenges and require greater attention and support from the international community.

The proposed open debate will be aimed at mobilizing the international community to increase its level of attention to and investment in African peace and security in general and peacekeeping operations there in particular, so as to effectively assist the African Union and African countries in building their capacity for peace and security.

II. Guiding Questions

(1) How can cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union and African countries be improved in terms of safeguarding peace and security in Africa in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, while respecting Africa's leading role in resolving its own security issues?

(2) How can United Nations peacekeeping operations be better coordinated with the political processes led by regional and sub-regional mechanisms in order to advance effective political settlements?

(3) How can the United Nations and the international community provide additional assistance to African troop-contributing countries in terms of personnel, training and equipment?

(4) What further efforts can the United Nations and the international community make to help African peace operations obtain more predictable and sustainable funding?

III. Format

Briefers:

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

Smaïl Chergui, African Union Commissioner for Peace and Security (via VTC)

The meeting will be held in the form of an open debate; with the proposed participation of Permanent Representatives of Member States. The meeting will not adopt an outcome document.